

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Competition on the court; community-building on the side

Monday, Aug. 12, 2013 - Nearly two dozen basketball teams will face off in the “Stop All Violence Tournament of Champions” on Aug. 24. On the court, the action will pit police officers against teen-agers, firefighters against fraternities, and youth vs. experience.

Off the court, the goal is that all players and fans will unite for a common cause: Taking a stand against youth violence.

“We wanted to rally the community,” said Sean Slaughter, chair of Men of Valor, the group sponsoring the event in conjunction with Hampton’s Community Action Coalition. “We’re not going to stand by and allow this increase in violence to happen.”

In addition to the tournament, there will be a 3-point shootout and dunk contest. Why basketball? “Hampton is a sports town,” said Slaughter. “It’s a draw because people will want to come out and see the games.”

When they do, they’ll also find information about organizations and groups that provide positive youth development programs. Slaughter’s hope is that visitors will have one of two reactions to the displays and workshops: “My family needs help and I connect with a group providing services I need” or “I want to help the community; sign me up.”

For non-sports fans, DJ Bee from 103 Jamz and the Fuzz Band will entertain, and there will be giveaways and family fun opportunities.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Boo Williams Sportsplex, 5 Armistead Pointe Pkwy. It’s free, and people can stay all day or drop in for any part. For more information, watch a video promo at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRHBKLT8hro> or check <http://www.hampton.gov/youthviolence> for more information on this and future efforts.

Hampton is adopting a multi-pronged approach to reducing youth violence. Council has endorsed several police surveillance and investigative initiatives and increased codes measures. As part of seeking long-term solutions, the coalition is working on prevention and intervention ideas and connecting existing non-profits and faith groups with city departments.

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